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More victims in US football pedophilia case

NEW YORK (AFP) - Some 10 additional victims have come forward in the pedophilia scandal that has tarnished one of America's most revered college sports programs, The New York Times reported yesterday.

According to the paper, investigators were probing the new allegations against Jerry Sandusky, former defensive coordinator for Pennsylvania State University's football team, who earlier this month was indicted on 40 counts of sexually abusing eight young boys.

Reports of nearly 10 new possible victims came one day after Sandusky, in a television interview, denied the sex abused allegations, saying he was guilty of nothing more than having "horsed around" with the boys.

"I could say that I have done some of those things. I have horsed around with kids, I have showered after workouts. I have hugged them and I have touched their legs without intent of sexual contact," Sandusky told NBC News program "Rock Center" in a telephone interview that aired late Monday.

Asked about the sex abuse counts against him, Sandusky

replied, "I say that I am innocent of those charges."

He was then asked, "Are you a pedophile?" and the 67-year-old Sandusky responded, "No." But he did admit doing wrong, saying "I shouldn't have showered with those kids."

Sandusky is free on a \$100,000 bail. The acts allegedly took place as far back as 1994, according to a grand jury report, which described how a graduate assistant witnessed Sandusky sodomizing a boy in a shower on campus and reported the abuse to superiors, but no school officials called police.

Sandusky already has been formally charged in the sex abuse of eight children.

The grand jury report detailed claims of alleged sexual encounters over a 15-year time span, with boys in Sandusky's home, hotels and the Penn State dressing room.

The sex-abuse scandal, which led to the firing of coaching legend Joe Paterno and three other university officials, is deemed one of the worst ever in college sports and has led to a spasm of national soul searching.

Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance Conference on Aruba this week



National Park delegates from all 6 islands.

(see story on page 2)

Dutch economy shrinks first time since 2009

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Dutch economy shrank 0.3 percent in the third quarter compared with the three months to June for the first such contraction since 2009, official data showed yesterday.

"It's the first time the economy has contracted from one quarter to the next since the second quarter of 2009," Statistics Netherlands (CBS) said.

Year-on-year, gross domestic product (GDP) was up 1.1 percent in the third quarter.

Household consumption dipped 1.0 percent in the third quarter over a year ago, the CBS said, singling out depressed auto sales.

Clothes and shoes also showed a drop, as well as spending in the hotel and restaurant sector, blamed on poor weather in July and August.

State spending on defence and administration slipped because of budget cuts.

Finance Minister Maxime Verhagen said uncertainty within the European economy was also starting to affect the Dutch economy.

"Confidence among entrepreneurs and consumers received a hard knock," Dutch news agency ANP quoted Verhagen as saying.

"We are going to feel it in the future. Signals for the Dutch economy are flashing (caution)," he said.

Exports continued firmer, however, up 4.0 percent over the third quarter of 2010 and 2.9 percent over the second quarter this year.

CBS reported a trade surplus of 3.6 billion euros (\$4.9 billion) in September, down

1.1 billion euros on September 2010.

Year-on-year, investment rose 4.6 percent, notably in the automotive industry. Investment in housing and business property was up 2.6 percent.

Despite the decline in growth and a decline in certain figures such as household consumption, the Dutch economy was not in bad shape," said CBS spokesman Symon Algera.

Dutch economic prospects in the long term were very positive, he said.

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Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance Conference on Aruba this week



Rudy Davelaar, Leendert van Driel, Kalli De Meyer and Jimi Meijer

Board members from the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, which includes representatives from all six islands of the Dutch Caribbean, are meeting on Aruba this week to discuss accords and cooperation regarding protected areas, such as Arikok National Park. Heading the talks are Kalli De Meyer, Executive Director of the DCNA and Luis Santine, Chair and Leendert J. van Driel, Vice Chair, of the Board.

There are several issues the DCNA members need to confront, but a priority, according to Mr. van Driel, is to resolve the new status of the majority of the island since 10/10/10, which marked the formal dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles. Curacao and St. Maarten

now have autonomous status within the Dutch Kingdom, similar to Aruba, and the BES Islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) are full blown protectorates of Holland.

This creates a new dynamic for those five islands, legally, financially, and in the practice of conservation. "It creates a new dimension in working together," commented Mr. van Driel, "exchanging experience and practical knowledge. Nature doesn't know the limits and the boundaries, we take care of that. Things have changed, and because of the varying status of the different islands, they are not quite clear. We are in the midst of that right now; before 10/10 things were clear. Aruba was

also on the list as a beneficiary of the trust fund, the financial benefits of DCNA. 10/10 results in the BES Island links being direct to Holland, which raises the issue on the financial dimension."

Ms. De Meyer explained that with the advent of 10/10 "One of the moot points during the constitutional change is that national parks that were previously recognized by the Dutch Government literally ceased to exist, at least in theory. One of the things we have been agitating for is formal recognition of, for example, our Bonaire National Marine Park, and the protected areas of St. Eustatius and Saba. This was brought forward to the Queen during her recent visits to all the islands."

Since Aruba has a long standing independence of 25 years, the situation here is little effected by the 10/10 landmark. "Actually," continued Ms. De Meyer, "the most stable of all the island is Aruba, because you have enjoyed Status Aparte long enough that you have really come to terms with it; but Curacao and St. Maarten are having to find their own way, and the BES Islands are being much more ac-

tively managed by the Netherlands. DCNA is one of the very few organizations which are still multi-island."

"It is rather ironic that at a point in time when the islands are flying apart from a governance perspective," she continued.

"DCNA came together in recognizing the benefits of working together. One of the challenges that faces us, for example, very practically, is now that there is distinct attention on the BES Islands in the Netherlands, how can we use that so six islands benefit from the initiatives. That is one of the strong role that DCNA is trying to provide for the islands, which will also be to Aruba's advantage."

Since meeting here 3 years ago, delegates noted an ex-

treme change towards conservation and environmental protection, with a new administration steering Aruba towards becoming a world leader in the use of renewable and clean energy sources. They also commended the development towards a protected marine park on Aruba, which they feel is sorely needed; these are developments which they very much encourage and for which DCNA could likely provide financial support.

"I would consider a protected marine area for Aruba an extreme priority," expressed Mr. van Driel. Rudy Davelaar of the Aruba Marine Park Foundation was one of the presenters to the DCNA Board on their first day of workshops.

by Rosalie Klein

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Youth Parliament participated in AHATA'S Coastal Clean Up



Youth Parliament headed by its Youth Minister for Environmental Affairs Aditya Gupta participated in the annual Coastal Clean Up of AHATA. Saturday morning, the crew got together with the group of De Palm tours at Alto Vista to help clean up the 7 bocas behind the Alto Vista chapel. It was a unique experience for the team as they found bot-



tles, plastics, glass, wood with nails, shoes, sandals and all kinds of weird items at these sites. The items were duly collected in to sturdy garbage bags.

Aditya wondered if we can recycle all this material into something useful we could probably help the environment even better.

Picture shows Aditya Gupta with Daniela Hernandez and Lorenzo Oduber of the team with the resourceful team members of De Palm Tours who provided the logistical support to these youngster as well.

Third and last car view day at different police stations

ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Police Force announces that it will organize a last view day for all confiscated cars and motorcycles stationed at the various stations on the island. Some of the cars were confiscated during traffic controls, others were found broken down alongside the road or abandoned in the countryside, and some were left behind by joy riders.

The view day is this Friday, November 18, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Oran-

jestad, Noord, San Nicolas, Santa Cruz and Balashi police stations. Those seeking to reclaim a vehicle must present proper documentation of ownership before it will be released.

As of November 19, the Aruba Police Force will evaluate the unclaimed vehicles, which will be junked or sold.

The Aruba Police Force kindly asks those wishing to reclaim their car or motorcycle to take not and make good use of this last chance to retrieve their vehicle.



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June and Steven's affirmation of love

June and Steven, and family and friends from New Jersey, arrived at The Old Man and The Sea Restaurant in Savaneta to watch the sunset over cocktails and have dinner on the beach. They had to change the original reservation of two days before because June did not arrive until yesterday due to the fact she didn't get her passport renewed in time to come down when planned with everyone. They all come to Aruba and this restaurant for years, and last year her parents renewed their vows on this same beach at sunset.

As they walked onto the beach of the restaurant, June noticed a beautifully decorated large table under a tent between the palm trees close to the sea and asked Steven "Is that for us? Is that for what I think it is?" What a wonderful surprise it was!

At that moment Steve said he wanted to spend the rest of his life with her and asked if she would accept standing next to him in front of her parents Maryanne and John, best friends Michelle and Michael, Lois and Anthony and Steve and Carol, as witnesses for an Affirmation of Love ceremony. She accepted, and the words of the personalized ceremony prepared by Officiant Diane Keijzer with the help of Steve and her best friend Michele, brought tears to the eyes of both of them.



Their story is simple. Steve is a contractor, and June had hired him to come look at her house and the repairs that needed to be done. He came back the next day, but not to give an estimate, but to ask her out, and the rest is history. They are not only affirming

their love to each other as partners in life, but are also raising six children together, Stevie, Brittany, Melissa, Jessica, Jenna and Julie, and I must not forget to mention their two dogs, Joey and Duncan.

Congratulations! See you next year.

Palm Beach Casino hosts tremendous Black Jack Tournament



Last week the Palm Beach Casino located at the Westin Resort held a tremendous Black Jack Tournament where lots of cash prizes were given away.

"Many of our loyal clients participated in the Black Jack Tournament," said a

spokesperson for the casino.

The Black Jack tournament started Friday November 11th and ended Saturday November 12th. The prize of the tourney started at \$5000 and ended with the grand sum of \$8000 to give out.

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Second lot of livestock has arrived for Santa Rosa to meet local demand!



PIEDRA PLAT -- The last time that Santa Rosa received livestock was back in November 2010, exactly one year ago. Many of the animals in that lot were pregnant when they arrived here from the USA, which occasioned an unexpected growth of sheep and goats. However, the demand continued to grow, thus to meet this growing demand a new set of livestock is on its way to Santa Rosa again from the USA.

This second shipment includes, among others, pigs, different breeds of sheep and goats. In preparation for these

new animals, and also in an attempt to improve the situation, the Santa Rosa Management Team is currently repairing animal stalls to better accommodate the animals.

The roofs on the section for the goats and sheep has been completely renovated. They included a drainage system to avoid the animals from getting wet or their stalls being under water when rain falls. All other stalls are also being repaired, which will be very helpful to farmers who usually bring their animals to Santa Rosa to give birth.

Santa Rosa is currently looking into the possibility for importing other types of animals. For example, they would like to import cows and other breeds of pigs. They have also received a number of products for raising animals.

Santa Rosa has also begun planting hay in the hopes that this would encourage our livestock farmers to do likewise. They are currently looking into the possibility for importing food and other products from Colombia and Venezuela, which they claim would be much cheaper than the cost of importing from the USA.

Those interested in purchasing livestock should contact Mrs. Rebecca Franken. If per chance Franken is unavailable, you can contact Mrs. Glenda Bareno at telephone 585-8102. All in all, Santa Rosa is dedicated to helping our agricultural farmers and livestock farmers with all their needs and to provide them with suggestions and advice to improve their business.



A cordial invitation is extended for Santa Rosa's last public market sale event for this year, which is scheduled for December 3rd from 9:00

to 1:00 pm. Santa Rosa advises everyone to buy fresh from our own local farmers and so doing to.... eat healthy!

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

After NY crackdown, Occupy DC expects to grow

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The crackdown on Occupy Wall Street in New York alarmed protesters in Washington who nevertheless felt confident yesterday their thriving downtown encampment will not only endure, but grow.

Set up on October 1, Occupy DC has turned McPherson Square, in the heart of the K Street lobbying district and a stone's throw from the White House, into a youthful tent city so far tolerated by local authorities.

A second tent city, which bills itself as Occupy Washington DC, stands at nearby Franklin Square. It grew out of an anti-war protest in mid-October spearheaded by older, more seasoned activists.

"I think we're going to stay all winter," said Marc Smith, a member of Occupy DC's media team, told AFP after a sleepless night with fellow occupiers watching events in New York via live Internet video.

"I don't think there's any plan on leaving... There's really not too much concern at this point."

In fact, Occupy DC expects to grow by at least a few dozen "sleepers" with the arrival on November 22 of a group of Occupy Wall Street activists who set off from New York -- on foot -- last Thursday.

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DC continues as scheduled in just a few hours," the trekkers said on their website before departing Philadelphia.

Brian Grimes, a familiar figure by the information tent in McPherson Square since day three of the occupation, said he understood Occupy Wall Street "didn't even get a pretense of a reason" for the early-morning swoop.

"It seems the more they do to squash this movement, the more people seem to join it and become more defiant," added musician and US army veteran Darrell Willis under the park's equestrian statue of Civil War general James McPherson.

If Occupy DC comes across as better organized than its counterparts in other cities, it's probably due to politics being the number-one industry in the US capital, where street demonstrations are commonplace.

"The locals here are very used to dealing with political issues, and through the nature of their jobs they do a lot of organizing," Grimes told AFP as early-risers played chess and office workers passed through.

Occupy DC scaled back its

"direct actions" targeting big banks and political events after an evening march on a right-wing fund-raising dinner on November 4 erupted in scuffles and a hit-and-run incident that left six people hurt.

But it could soon reassert itself, as Americans await the post-Thanksgiving verdict of a congressional "supercommittee" tasked with deciding what federal programs will get the axe in the midst of the worst US economy in decades.

Like the capital itself, the tent city is organized in quadrants, with an information center, medical tent, library and free kitchen in one corner, sleeping tents in two other corners, and an open meeting space in the forth.

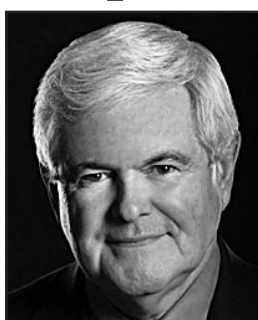
That open space hosts a nightly general assembly and, incongruously, a flock of ducks that flies in every evening.

The layout impressed the Washington Post newspaper enough to dedicate its Style section one day last week to Occupy DC as a phenomenon breathing new life into a part of the city otherwise known for poker-faced men in suits.

Gingrich jumps to front of Republican pack

JEFFERSON (AFP) - White House hopeful Newt Gingrich, the former US House speaker whose campaign to win the Republican nomination appeared all but over just weeks ago, has surged toward the front of the pack.

His campaign's revival follows the rise and fall of leading rivals, most recently former Godfather's Pizza chief executive Herman Cain who is bat-



ting a sexual harassment scandal and stumbled badly Monday in responding to a question on Libya.

The Republican Party has struggled to find the right alternative to frontrunner Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor seen by many as the most formidable challenger to President Barack Obama in the November 2012 election but who has been unable to gain support of the party's conservative base.

US space pioneers to get congressional medals



L.-r. Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Congress today will award the nation's highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, to four American astronauts, including the first man to walk on the Moon, Neil Armstrong.

Other recipients are Buzz Aldrin, who was second man to walk on the Moon; and Michael Collins, who was the command module pilot for Apollo 11, the first manned

mission to the Moon in 1969.

The fourth winner is former senator John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth in 1962.

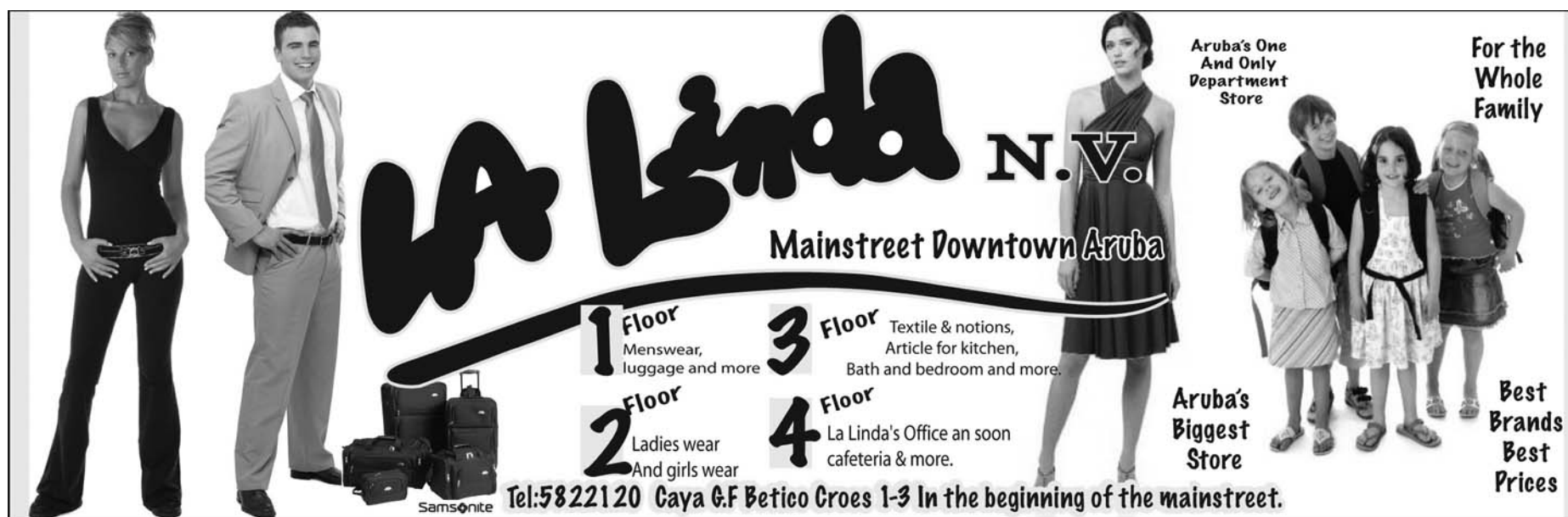
They were given the nod by Congress in 2009 to receive the award, on what was then the 40th anniversary of the pioneering US mission to the Moon.

The ceremony is set for 11:00 am at the US Capitol Rotunda.



FRANCE : Picture taken yesterday shows the entrance of L'Aventure private club-restaurant in Paris where former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn reportedly had sex with prostitutes, according to French media reports citing a French police inquiry. Claiming he is the victim of a "media lynching", the 62-year-old French politician said through his lawyers that he wants to address allegations he took part in orgies with prostitutes in Washington and Paris.

(AFP PHOTO)



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Mexico arrests alleged Knights Templar gang leader

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexican soldiers arrested a man they say is the local boss of the Knights Templar drug gang in the western violence-plagued state of Michoacan, officials said yesterday.

Juan Gabriel Orozco allegedly heads operations for the outlaw group in Morelia, capital of Michoacan. He was captured during local elections Sunday without a shot being fired, said a statement from the attorney general's office.

Orozco is accused of trafficking marijuana and weapons, extortion, and the abduction and killing of 21 people last June.

The Knights Templar is a splinter group from La Familia, a rival drug gang that also operates in Michoacan. The two groups are now engaged in a turf war.

Michoacan, the home state of President Felipe Calderon, lies on key drug trafficking routes and in a region where marijuana is grown.

Chile consul in Venezuela kidnapped, shot, released

SANTIAGO (AFP) - Chile's foreign ministry said yesterday that its consul in Venezuela was the victim last week of a two-hour kidnapping, during which he was shot and later released.

"Last Friday, November 11, Chile's consul in Caracas, Juan Carlos Fernandez, was the victim of an assault, a so-called 'kidnap express' as he was leaving a hotel," the Santiago government said in a statement.

"After being held by his captors for two hours, he was

let go, in the middle of a busy roadway," the government statement said.

It added that during his captivity, Fernandez had been "wounded by a gunshot" and had received "numerous blows and threats" from his captors.

He was treated at a hospital and released on Sunday.

Venezuela is one of the most dangerous cities in the region, and kidnappings have reached epidemic proportions.

Europe launches sensitive debate on family migration laws

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Union launched a debate yesterday on whether to change laws on bringing migrant families back together, a sensitive issue in a continent facing an economic crisis and rising populism.

The EU's executive Commission opened a public consultation to sound out governments, civil society, non-EU countries and migrants, and determine if new legislation is needed.

"Family reunification gives immigrants the possibility to have a family life and helps their integration into society," said EU home affairs commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem.

"I hope that all stakeholders will participate in the consultation, and share their experiences and opinions on how to have more effective rules on family reunification," she said.

Malmstroem called on EU states to "outline and quantify the problems they claim to have with abuse of the current rules".

The Dutch government is the only state to have explicitly asked for changes in the rules in place since 2003, said a European source close to the matter. "The Dutch are very active on this issue," the source said.

The far-right Party for Freedom (PVV) in the Netherlands gives parliamentary support to a right-leaning minority coalition, in exchange for a say in policy making.

France, facing a presidential election in May 2012, Germany and Austria also lean towards stricter rules on allowing migrants to join family members living legally in an EU nation, the European source said.

The rules allow a for-

eigner to enter and reside in the EU if a family member has lived for one year or more in an EU state with "reasonable prospects of obtaining the right of permanent residence."

EU governments can impose other conditions, such as making migrants prove they have sufficient resources, adequate accommodation and health insurance.

In 2010, permits for family reunification represented 21 percent of overall permits handed out of migrants, or 500,000 people, the commission said.

The commission said the consultation aims to answer several questions, such as how to best define the migrants who benefit from the rules, how to tackle fake marriages, and whether safeguards are needed to foster integration.

The public consultation closes in March 2012.

London restarts legal action to clear St Paul's camp

LONDON (AFP) - Anti-capitalism protesters outside St Paul's Cathedral voiced defiance yesterday after London authorities resumed legal action against them, and police in New York cleared the camp which inspired them.

The City of London Corporation said in a statement it had voted to restart litigation to clear dozens of tents which have been lodged at the foot of the iconic church in the financial district for exactly one month.

The announcement came just hours after US police flooded into the New York cradle of anti-Wall Street protests, forcing out demonstrators and tearing down tents in a surprise strike.

"We paused legal action

for two weeks for talks with those in the camp on how to shrink the extent of the tents and to set a departure date -- but got nowhere," said Stuart Fraser, the authority's policy chairman. "So, sadly, now they have rejected a reasonable offer to let them stay until the New Year, it's got to be the courts."

The corporation said it expected to hand the protesters a legal notice today giving them 24 hours to leave, and that they would take the case to London's High Court if they refused.

Occupy LSX (London Stock Exchange) spokesman Spyro Van Leemmen said the protesters would fight on.



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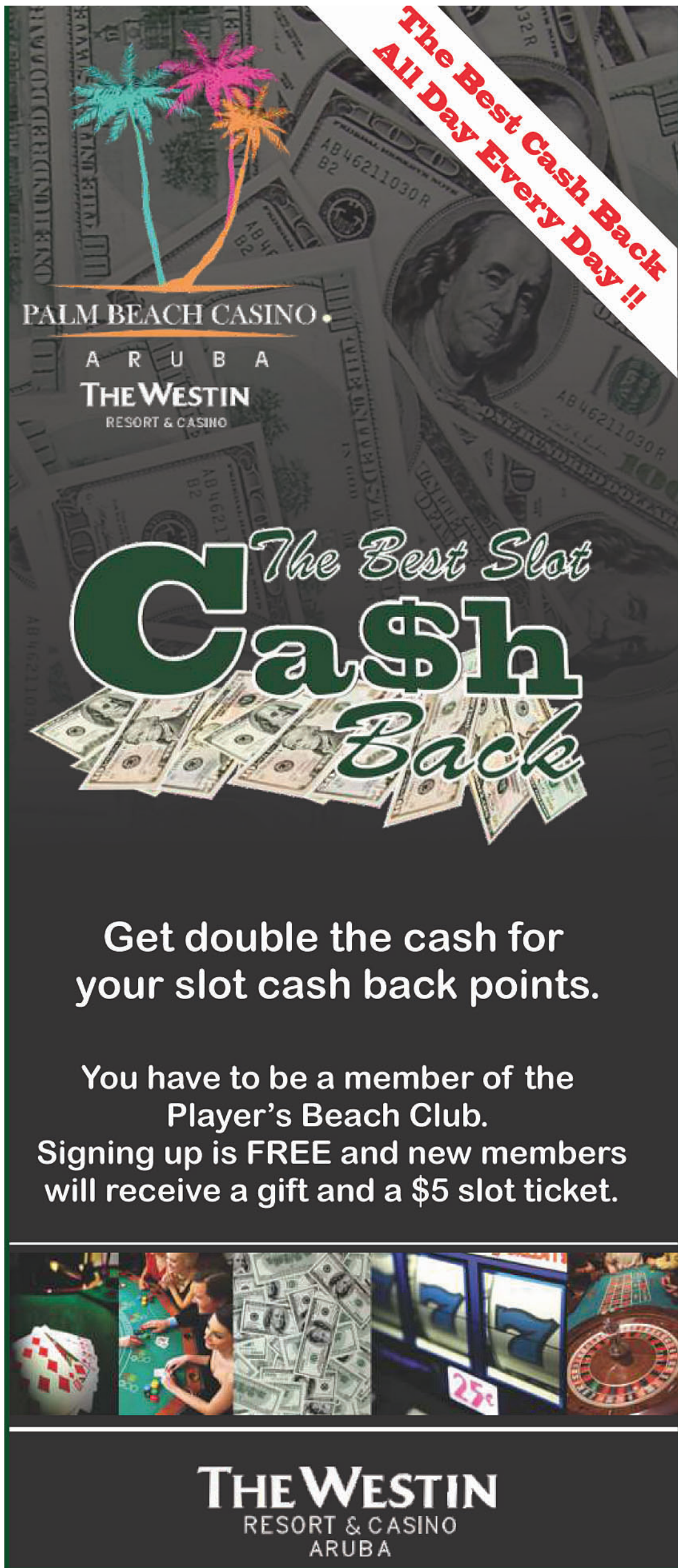
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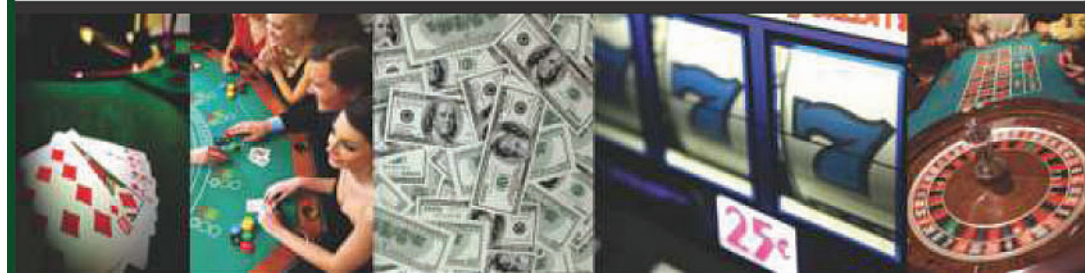
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Health & Living

Nepal jails 'Himalayan Viagra' killers

KATHMANDU (AFP) - A court in Nepal has convicted 19 villagers over the murder of a group of farmers during a fight over a prized aphrodisiac plant dubbed the "Himalayan Viagra", an official said Tuesday.

Seven farmers were killed in the remote northern district of Manang in June 2009 after going to forage for Yarchagumba, a rare parasitic plant that is a major source of income for many Himalayan communities.

The accused claimed the farmers died accidentally when a fight broke out over the right to harvest the plant, which is in particular demand in China where a kilogramme can fetch tens of thousands of dollars.

The valley near the border with China where the victims went missing in June 2009 is among the most remote parts of Nepal, and it was several weeks before authorities learned of the deaths.

"Six have been found

guilty of murder," Shambhu Baral, a court registrar at Manang District Court told AFP, adding that they had been given 20-year sentences.

"A group of 13 have been sentenced to two years in jail, but they have already spent their time in custody," he added.

"Evidence showed that the six were directly involved in the murder while the rest had provided indirect help. Another 21 defendants have been declared innocent," he said.

The court, which is a two day walk from the nearest road, has had to delay the verdict more than a dozen times due to absent judges and lawyers.

Local authorities say police had to walk for days to reach the area where the bodies of the seven men were discovered.

They initially arrested the entire village, but later released the women and children.

EU drugs watchdog warns of 'legal highs' surge

LISBON (AFP) - The rapid emergence of synthetic new drugs, often sold online as "legal highs," represents a significant challenge for policy makers in the coming decade, a European Union drugs agency said Tuesday.

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction said in its annual report that while cocaine use across Europe may have peaked, and that ecstasy and amphetamine use is stable or declining, new synthetic substances are continually being developed.

So far this year, 39 new substances have been reported to the European early-warning mechanism, with another 41 identified in 2010.

"Europe's drug policies and responses must now be configured to face the challenges of the next decade," agency director Wolfgang Goetz said in the report.

The biggest difficulty for authorities is the large number of online stores offering "legal highs," including a record 600 shops touting

psychoactive substances.

One such drug, the synthetic stimulant mephedrone, is frequently sold online and through illegal networks, the report states.

"The fast-moving and increasingly joined-up world we live in is mirrored by an increasingly fast-moving and joined-up drug market which appears quick to adapt to both threats and opportunities," Goetz said.

The report is more optimistic with cocaine trends. It states the drug's high street price and the financial crisis have prompted a cutback in cocaine use among young adults in several countries including Britain, Denmark, Spain and Italy -- a trend that's also been observed in Canada and the United States.

Cannabis remains Europe's most popular illicit drug in Europe, though its use is decreasing among youths.

Amphetamine and ecstasy use is also stable or in decline, the report states.

Sci-Tech

First US embryonic stem cell trial is halted

(AFP) - The first-ever trial using human embryonic stem cells to treat paralysis has been halted due to high costs and the company, Geron, said it will focus instead on new cancer treatments.

The California-based biotech firm said it was also cutting 66 full-time jobs, or 38 percent of its workforce, according to a statement posted on its website.

"Geron plans to close the GRNOPC1 trial for spinal cord injury to further enrollment," the statement said, adding that the decision was made after a "strategic review" of costs and "regulatory complexities."

The study was meant to include up to 10 people in the first-ever trial of stem cell therapy on humans and began in October last year. Another company, Advanced Cell

Technology, followed months later with trial on blindness.

It was unclear how many people have received the treatment.

The decision was greeted with anger by a board member of the Christopher and Dana Reeves Foundation, founded by the late Superman actor and his wife and which aims to cure spinal cord injury by funding new paths of research.

"I'm disgusted. It makes me sick," board member Daniel Heumann was quoted as telling the Washington Post.

"To get people's hopes up and then do this for financial reasons is despicable. They are treating us like lab rats."

Those who support embryonic stem cell research believe the field holds great promise for a host of ailments, from Alzheimer's to diabetes and more.

However the research is controversial because it requires the destruction of human embryos, and opponents say it violates their religious beliefs and is unethical.

Federally funded stem cell research was halted under the George W. Bush administration, and though President Barack Obama lifted the ban in 2009, a host of legal battles have followed.

Scientists have also complained that a rush for patents on nearly every step of the process has made it nearly impossible to advance their work.



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Radioactive iodine: Now France detects traces in atmosphere

PARIS (AFP) - France's nuclear watchdog on Tuesday said it had detected traces of radioactive iodine in the air last week after similarly low contamination was reported by the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Austria.

Concentrations of iodine 131 measuring a few microbecquerels per cubic metre

were detected last week at four monitoring stations in northern and eastern France, the Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) said.

"Although the presence of iodine 131 over national territory is quite exceptional... the level of concentrations that have been observed are of no

risk for public health," it said in a press release.

"The source and date of the radioactive emissions which caused this pollution are currently unknown," the IRSN said.

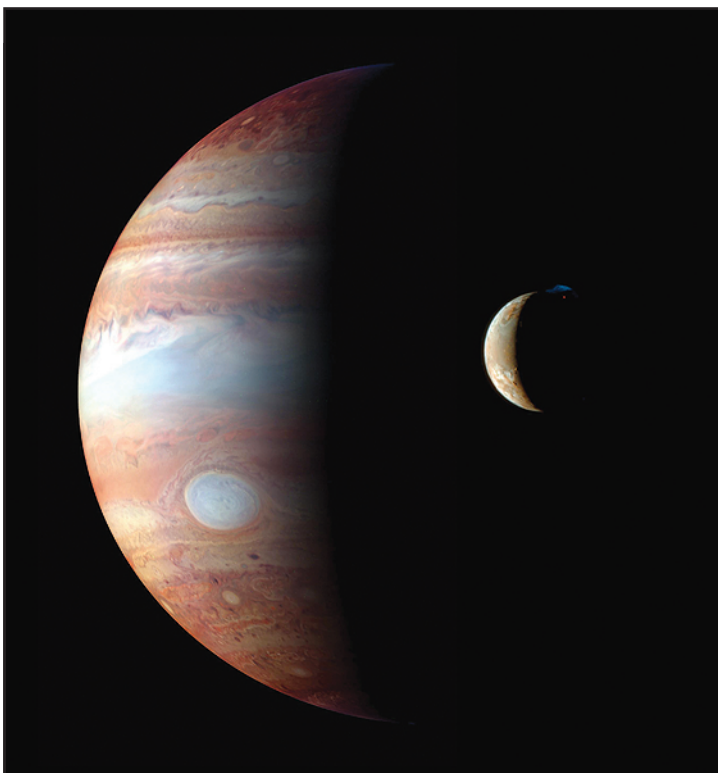
Iodine is a very short-lived isotope that decays to half of its radioactivity in only eight days.

For this reason, the source is unlikely to be Japan's crippled nuclear power plant at Fukushima, where iodine was released in March but later stopped, the agency said.

A possible source could be a reactor used for electricity or research or a plant using iodine 131 to make medical devices, the IRSN speculated.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna said last Friday that "very low levels" of iodine 131 had been detected in the air in the Czech Republic.

Poland, Slovakia and Austria also reported abnormal but still very low levels. Poland's atomic energy agency said local readings of iodine 131 had been a hundred times higher in March after the Fukushima accident.



This NASA montage of New Horizons images released on November 15, 2011 shows Jupiter and its volcanic moon Io, taken during the spacecraft's Jupiter flyby in early 2007. The image of Jupiter is an infrared color composite taken by the spacecraft's near-infrared imaging spectrometer, the Linear Etalon Imaging Spectral Array. The infrared wavelengths used highlight variations in the altitude of the Jovian cloud tops, with blue denoting high-altitude clouds and hazes, and red indicating deeper clouds. The prominent bluish-white oval is the Great Red Spot. The observation was made at a solar phase angle of 75 degrees but has been projected onto a crescent to remove distortion caused by Jupiter's rotation during the scan. The image of Io is an approximately true-color composite taken by the panchromatic Long-Range Reconnaissance Imager with color information provided by the Multispectral Visible Imaging Camera. The image shows a major eruption in progress on Io's night side, at the northern volcano Tvashtar. Incandescent lava glows red beneath a volcanic plume, whose uppermost portions are illuminated by sunlight. The plume appears blue due to scattering of light by small particles within it.

AFP PHOTO

Android doubles smartphone market share: Gartner

WASHINGTON (AFP) - More than half of the smartphones sold worldwide in the third quarter of the year were powered by Google's Android software, technology research firm Gartner said Tuesday.

A total of 60.5 million Android-powered smartphones were sold in the third quarter, giving the operating system a 52.5-percent market share, up from 25.3 percent in the same quarter a year ago, Gartner said.

Nokia sold 19.5 million smartphones using its Symbian operating system in the third quarter but its share of the smartphone market fell to 16.9 percent from 36.3 percent a year ago.

Apple sold 17.3 million iPhones powered by iOS software during the quarter. Apple's market share slipped to 15.0 percent from 16.6 percent a year ago.

BlackBerry maker Research In Motion saw the largest decline with its market share falling to 11.0 percent from 15.4 percent on sales of 12.7 million units.

in the US market, where it dropped to 10 percent."

Gartner said worldwide sales of mobile devices totalled 440.5 million units in the third quarter, up 5.6 percent over a year ago.

Smartphone sales rose 42 percent in the quarter over a year ago to 115.2 million units and made up 26 percent of all mobile sales, up from 25 percent the previous quarter.

Nokia was the overall leader in overall mobile sales in the third quarter although its market share slipped to 23.9 percent from 28.2 percent a year ago.



BED & BREAKFAST CURACAO

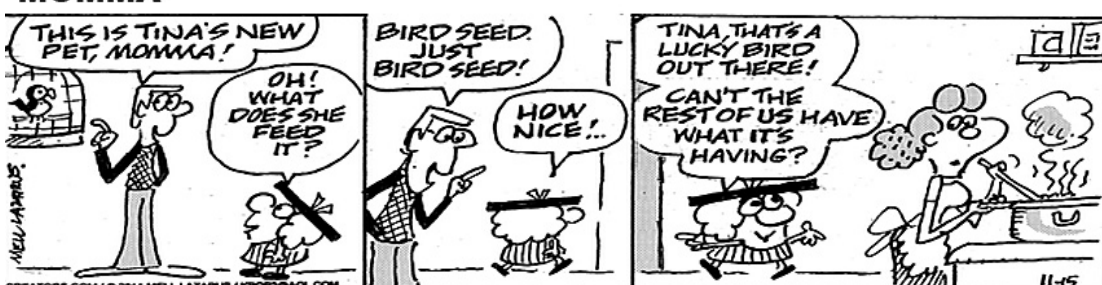
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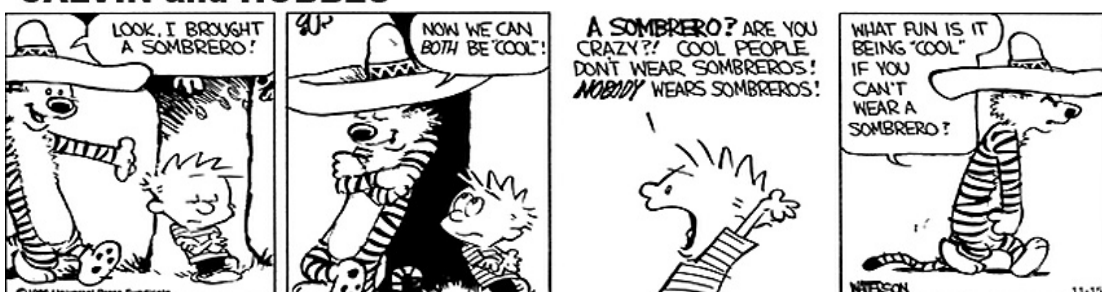
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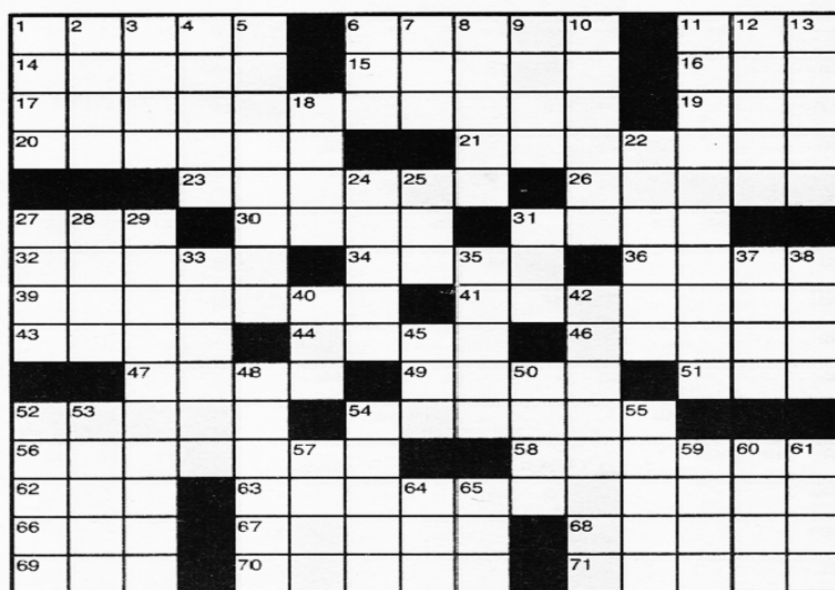
MAKE IT SNAPPY!

ACROSS

1. More appropriate
6. Nurse Peggotty of "David Copperfield"
11. The English channel?
14. At large
15. Barbizon School painter
16. Indian of Bolivia
17. Stat!
19. Sugarloaf site, for short
20. Mirandize
21. "Slow ____" (Pynchon story collection)
23. Vistas
26. Medieval slaves
27. Curmudgeonly expression
30. Hit the runway
31. Item posted on a restaurant window
32. "Are you calling me ____?"
34. Thing: Ital.
36. Arab robes
39. Tangerine tidbit
41. Aloud
43. Repeat
44. Abbreviation on outdated globes
46. City on the Allegheny
47. Refract
49. Big stick, in Sonora
51. Becoming slower, musically: abbr.
52. Enlightened
54. Fine homes
56. Not-so-floppy disk?
58. Way of old Rome

DOWN

62. Like Liza Jane
63. PDQ
66. Philippine native
67. Others, to Pedro
68. Little pan-frying fish
69. ____ Offensive
70. Tugboat
71. Padre Island's locale
1. Province west of Sask.
2. Inferior
3. Circle Line sally
4. Super-realist Richard
5. Hysteria fanned by McCarthy
6. Hypodermic units: abbr.
7. Singer Rawls
8. Nutmeg
9. coverings
10. Kyle of football
11. "As you were" command
12. Leave your marks
13. Writ
14. Golden's brewery
15. Kin of etc.
16. Fasten anew
17. Ancient people of Britain
18. DDE's domain
19. ____ jumping (extreme sport)
20. Woolcott, to his pals
21. Skedaddle
22. Half of a Kenyan terrorist group
23. Fifi's lovers
24. Kazakh city
25. Jai ____
26. Mailed
40. Order member
42. Jamb
45. Italian corporation abbreviation
48. Recover from a crash, perhaps
50. Onus
52. One of a piano's minor notes
53. Fill journals
54. Geo model
55. Whale's trail
57. Within: prefix
59. Mountain animal with curved horns
60. Actress Nazimova
61. Clears, as profit
64. Ephemeral popular
65. Lisper's problem letter



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Care Center
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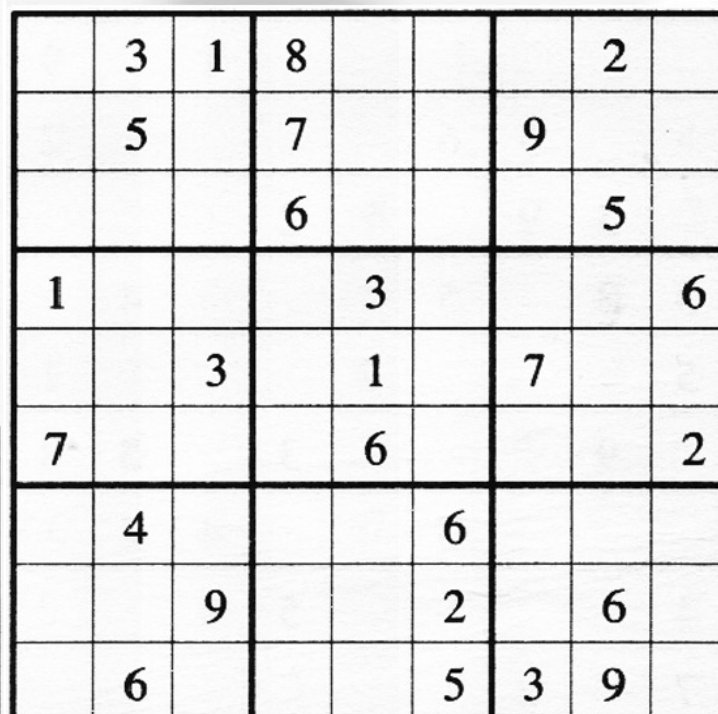
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Telephone 911
POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

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Sudoku



SOLUTION

1	6	8	5	3	7	2	9	4
8	9	7	2	4	6	1	5	3
5	2	9	6	1	8	7	4	3
2	4	1	7	9	6	5	8	3
6	7	3	8	1	5	2	9	4
9	8	5	4	2	7	6	1	3
3	5	8	1	7	9	2	4	6
4	1	6	3	2	7	9	5	8
7	2	9	6	5	8	1	3	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

Germany, France prop up growth as eurozone crisis widens

FRANKFURT (AFP) - Berlin and Paris propped up the crippled eurozone with resilient growth figures yesterday but France was buckling on tense bond markets as Italy and Greece raced to install new governments.

In Rome, new Prime Minister Mario Monti won vital support from two key parties and was set to announce the line-up of his cabinet after warning that the nation faces "sacrifices" under a relaunch of deep reforms.

But Italian borrowing costs shot up along with French and Spanish rates which surged to show a record gap with the eurozone benchmark 10-year German bond.

France, with a 10-year rate of 3.683 percent, now has more than twice as much as Germany to borrow, even though both have the top AAA credit rating which Paris is fighting desperately to retain.

If French borrowing rates and credit rating deteriorate, the architecture of the key European Union debt rescue fund could be compromised.

But while Germany and France clocked up growth of 0.5 percent and 0.4 percent respectively, analysts and think tanks say that will be the last of the good news for the eurozone for quite some time.

In Greece, where a new government is also trying to relaunch reforms to avert bank-

ruptcy, new data showed the economy shrank 5.2 percent in the third quarter, highlighting the huge task facing Prime Minister Lucas Papademos.

The eurozone showed quarterly growth of 0.2 percent thanks largely to a pick-up in consumer spending in Germany, the Eurostat data agency said.

Analysts said the 17-nation single currency area could already be slipping into recession, noting that the stiff austerity measures aimed at tackling debt are undercutting growth.

The fractional 0.2-percent eurozone growth in the third quarter "may well be as good as it gets in the near-term at least, as contraction looks highly possible in the fourth quarter and we suspect also the first quarter of 2012," said London-based IHS Global Insight analyst Howard Archer.

Indeed, "we expect to see GDP contract by around 0.25 percent quarter-on-quarter in both the fourth quarter of 2011 and the first quarter of 2012," he said.

He tipped gross domestic product in 2012 to be "essentially only flat over the year as a whole."

Tensions on the bond markets reflected rising investor doubts about the ability of governments to get to the root of the eurozone's problems and reform their finances.

Slowing growth deepens the dilemma because it reduces tax revenues.

European stocks moved

down, with London's slipping 0.03 percent, Frankfurt shedding 0.87 percent, Milan losing 1.08 percent, Madrid dropping 1.61 percent, Paris tumbling 1.92 percent and Athens plunging 3.57 percent.

On Monday, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris warned of increasing signs of a slowdown in most OECD and in major non-member countries.

That came just days after the EU Commission in Brussels warned that Europe could tip back into recession over the course of 2012 due to a "vicious circle" of government debt, vulnerable banks and collapsed spending.

Similarly worrying was an analysis of China's financial system by the International Monetary Fund, which warned Tuesday that the world's second-largest economy is at risk from bad loans, uncontrolled private lending and sharp falls in property prices.

Tom Rogers, senior economic adviser to the Ernst & Young Eurozone Forecast (EEF), said the latest data "corroborate our view that the eurozone is slipping back into recession and needs decisive policy action to restore confidence and prevent a serious downturn in 2012."

Despite the superficially strong data for Germany and France, "the clear direction of travel for the fourth quarter and into 2012 is for falling output," he said.

Greek economy in dire shape ahead of gov't confidence vote

ATHENS (AFP) - Greece's economy shrank 5.2 percent in the third quarter, official data showed yesterday, highlighting the depths of the crisis as parliament debated approval of a new government under Lucas Papademos.

Athens is racing against time to adopt deeply unpopular reforms demanded by its European Union and International Monetary Fund creditors before the release of bailout loans needed to avert bankruptcy in mid-December.

Papademos' transition go-

vernment, formed last week with the backing of the socialist, conservative and right-wing nationalist parties, is expected to carry a vote of confidence today but must hold early elections in a few months.

Hoping to delay a possible default, the Greek debt management agency yesterday raised 1.3 billion euros (\$1.78 billion) in a sale of three-month treasury bills, having to pay slightly higher rates of 4.63 percent, up from 4.61 percent in October.

US stuck with high jobless rate in 2012

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US jobless rate will remain stuck at around 9.0 percent through the end of 2012, the Congressional Budget Office said Tuesday in a dark outlook for the coming election year.

With 14 million unemployed and the government struggling to find ways to generate jobs, the non-partisan CBO said that economic growth will only pick up to about 2.5 percent in 2012 from 1.5 percent this year, not enough to boost job creation above the steady rise in the size of the workforce.

"Weakness in the demand

for goods and services is the principal constraint on hiring, but structural impediments in the labor market, such as a mismatch between the requirements of existing job openings and the characteristics of job seekers... appear to be hindering hiring as well," CBO director Douglas Elmendorf said.

"As a result, the unemployment rate is likely to be around 9.0 percent through the fourth quarter of next year," identical to the current rate and half a percentage point higher than the CBO's forecast three months ago.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

FIRST ASTI ABUSE
ARIA TEAM TOPER
CARROTTOP TYPES
TEE PEASE ALERT
DINE RACER
BEHIND BILK CHA
ALIVE BRAES RAP
RIGA MEALS MUSS
NTH POETS TASTE
SEP ROKS WRITES
REESE DIED
TOILS ELUDE LES
AREAS PIKESPEAK
PASTE EVES ANTI
ANTED REST LAST



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Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
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U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.720	1.740	1.760
Britain	GBP	2.760	2.810	2.870
Switzerland	CHF	1.9414	1.9486	1.9566
Netherlands	EUR	2.3883	2.4101	2.4343
Sweden	SEK	0.2543	0.2615	0.2695
Denmark	DKK	0.3143	0.3215	0.3295
Norway	NOK	0.2993	0.3065	0.3145
Japan	JPY	229.29	231.39	233.71
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,000.00 per item.				

Brad Pitt says he enjoys getting older



SEOUL (AFP) - Hollywood heart-throb Brad Pitt said he enjoys getting older because age brings wisdom.

"Me personally, I like ageing. With age comes wisdom... I'll take wisdom over youth any day," he told a press conference during a visit to South Korea to promote his latest film "Moneyball".

"I think, certainly, being a father changed everything for me," said the actor, 47, whose partner is fellow superstar An-

gelina Jolie. They have six children.

Parenthood means a changed perspective for him, an interest in taking care of himself and mornings being around for their children, he said.

"Moneyball," an adaptation of Michael Lewis's 2003 bestseller "Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game", is scheduled to be released this week in South Korea.

Pitt stars as Oakland Athletics baseball team general manager Billy Beane, who took on the big league by assembling a competent team on a shoestring budget -- using a new method to evaluate players and find their hidden talent.

Pitt said the film's box office success elsewhere was not merely celebrity-driven.

"Popularity is good for the opening weekend but what

we've been really happy with this film is that it keeps playing weekend after weekend, crossing generations and genders," he said.

"And that tells us we have something more than a film, (more than) a celebrity-driven film or a subject-driven film. It's really a good movie and it's really fun and it's a good laugh and it's got meaning in it."

Pitt said he was interested in shifting from acting to the production side but was not putting an exact time limit on his acting career.

During an interview with an Australian current affairs show in Tokyo, he had said he would quit acting at 50.

"I do quite enjoy the producing side," Pitt said in Seoul, adding he would like producing films which are difficult to make under the current system or "getting behind talent that we believe in".

Timberlake 'stoked' and moved at Marine Corps ball

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Singer-turned-actor Justin Timberlake made good on his promise to accompany a female corporal to a US Marine Corps ball after she invited him on YouTube and says he was "moved" by the experience.

The Hollywood star said on his website he was honored and "stoked to be there" with Corporal Kelsey DeSantis, a blonde martial arts competitor who asked Timberlake to Saturday's event in Richmond, Virginia.

"I knew I would have an evening that I wouldn't forget... Something I could tell my friends about. What I didn't know was how moved I would be by the whole experience," Timberlake wrote on his website over the weekend.

Timberlake said he came away humbled by the dedication of the Marines and enjoyed talking to his date about her passion for training in mixed martial arts.

"It reminded me of how I hear my favorite athletes talk about their sport or, how I hear my favorites among my peers



in music and film talk about their craft," he wrote.

He said they managed to dance a little and that DeSantis kept asking him if he was having a good time.

"She seemed to me to be so humble and honest... Very cool."

DeSantis, who can be seen in an online video pummeling her bloodied opponent in the ring before being declared the winner in a recent bout, said in a tweet that "the ball was epic! Had a wonderful time."

The young Marine had issued her video invite after a fellow marine asked Timberlake's co-star in "Friends with Benefits," Mila Kunis, to an-

other Marine Corps ball.

"If you can't go then all I have to say is, 'Cry Me a River,'" DeSantis says in a sassy video, referring to a Timberlake hit.

Kunis, who co-starred with Natalie Portman in last year's sexually-charged hit movie "Black Swan," accepted the invitation from Marine Sergeant Scott Moore, who tells her in his video from Afghanistan she can call him "Scotty."

In an interview, Kunis gives him credit for having the courage to ask her to the ball on November 18 in North Carolina.

"The guy's really ballsy for asking me out."

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Mexican drug balladeer shot dead

CULIACAN (AFP) - A singer of narcocorrido ballads which glorify drug traffickers was killed with two others in a drive-by shooting in northwest Mexico, officials said.

Attackers opened fire on Diego Rivas and five others in Culiacan, the capital of the drug-trafficking heartland state of Sinaloa, according to the Public Security Ministry. Three people were also wounded.

Rivas had a hit song which lauded Mexico's billionaire fugitive drug boss Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

He was the latest fatality

within the risky profession, as drug violence has risen under a military crackdown on organized crime.

Fabian Ortegón, "The Falcon of the North" who also sang about Guzman, was killed in the northern state of Chihuahua in October last year.

Another singer, Sergio Vega, was shot dead on a street in Sinaloa in June 2010.

Last May the government in the home state of Guzman's Sinaloa cartel banned the popular drug ballads in places serving alcohol, but they still ring out from radio stations and in music videos.



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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline

pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



The Old Cunucu House-still one of the most charming dining options on Aruba



The Old Cunucu House in Palm Beach was one of the first restaurants on the island to offer their patrons an authentic taste of Aruban cuisine along with a tempting continental menu, many years ago. Sometimes we tend to forget the old favorites, as there is

incredibly quaint interior, where it is easily possible to enjoy a private section for your group. A very modern

erately priced menu rewards diners with extremely ample portions featuring the freshest of fish from local waters and famed Aruban specialties, such as Keshi Yena, Carbrito

always some new eatery cropping up, but The Old Cunucu House has maintained a loyal following for a very good reason, and if you have never tried it before, it is

Stoba, Aruban Meze, a mix of favorite Aruban snacks enough for 4 to share, or authentic seafood soup.

The menu is punctuated by



most definitely worth a visit.

One of the most pleasant attributes of this charming, native restaurant is the location, it is tucked away in a delightfully tranquil corner of Palm Beach; close to the major resorts, it is about a half hour walk through pleasant surroundings, and takes one away from the hustle and bustle of the main strip. The quiet while dining al fresco on their lovely landscaped terrace is almost tangible.

some very tempting and elegant dishes, such as a very generous portion of Roast Rack of Lamb Rosemary at a price well, WELL below the competition; definitely a good deal. All main courses are

garnished with authentic island side dishes such as funchi and banana hasa.

The Old Cunucu House is part of the Aruba Gastronomic Association Dine-Around plan for additional savings, but

we think you will be more than satisfied with your meal and the check when it is done.



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Golf: Internationals favourites to beat US: Mickelson



MELBOURNE (AFP) - Veteran Phil Mickelson says the International team are favourites to beat the United States in this week's Presidents Cup because of home course advantage.

Mickelson, 41, who has not missed the teams event since its 1994 inauguration, said the Americans face a challenge at Royal Melbourne to continue their dominance in the event, which gets under way today.

"Certainly, I would expect them (Internationals) to be the favourite because of their home course knowledge, as well as the home course support, but I do expect the US team to put on a good challenge," Mickelson said Tuesday.

The United States have dominated The Presidents Cup, held in alternative years to the traditional Ryder Cup, winning the event six times out of eight with just one loss and a tie.

The Americans' only defeat came at this week's Royal Melbourne venue in 1998 when the Internationals, featuring Greg Norman, Ernie Els and Nick Price, won by nine points.

"We have done pretty well in this competition and we have been able to do OK at home and away, but the only time we have lost at all is right here in Royal Melbourne," Mickelson said.

"It's a real challenge for us to play here, because we are

playing such a strong team, the International team has a lot of great players, a lot of great Australian players.

Mickelson, shaping up for his 17th team event for the United States, said the winning formula was getting a successful fit within the team in the foursomes, fourball and singles formats.

"I think that you want to have similar style of play in foursomes," he said.

"You want to have opposing style of play in fourball. You want to have a similar type of demeanour, if you can match that up, because it seems to lead to a little bit better energy, a little bit better momentum throughout the day.

Cricket: All nations fixed matches, not just Pakistan - Condon

LONDON (AFP) - All of cricket's leading countries were involved in the fixing of major matches, not just Pakistan, the sport's former chief anti-corruption investigator said Tuesday.

"In the late 1990s, Test and World Cup matches were being routinely fixed," Paul Condon, the founding head of the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption unit, said in an interview with London Evening Standard.

"Every international team, at some stage, had someone doing some funny stuff."

This month a British court jailed three Pakistan cricketers for deliberately bowling no-balls in a Test against England at Lord's last year in order to effect an illegal betting coup.

Former Pakistan captain Salman Butt was sentenced to 30 months in prison while bowlers Mohammad Asif and

Mohammad Aamer were jailed for a year and six months respectively.

But Condon, a former head of London's Metropolitan Police Force who helped set up the ICC's anti-corruption and security unit (ACSU) in 2000 and chaired it for a decade, said: "A whole generation of cricketers playing in the late 1990s must have known what was going on and did nothing."

And Condon added the root of the problem lay not in Asia but in English county cricket, where favours were traded between teams across the domestic 40-over Sunday league and first-class Championship competitions.

Condon urged present-day players to do more in the fight against corruption, saying: "In recent years, there's been very little whistle-blowing from current players."

Football: Rooney appeal hearing date set by UEFA

NYON (AFP) - England striker Wayne Rooney's appeal against his three-game ban will be heard on December 9, European football governing body UEFA announced.

The ban would rule the Manchester United star out of the entire pool stage of Euro 2012, though, England manager Fabio Capello has said he will still take him.

Rooney put his Euro participation in danger when he blatantly kicked Montenegro defender Miodrag Dzudovic in their final qualifying match.

UEFA said in a statement: "This follows UEFA's receipt

on Friday 4 November of the official written appeal from the English Football Association against the three-match suspension given to Rooney by the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body on 13 October."

Rooney claims the punishment, which would scupper his chances of featuring in the tournament at all should England fail to reach the knockout phase, was "a bit harsh".

The FA decided to pursue the matter after it became obvious there was no risk of the ban being increased, as would be the case in a domestic appeal.

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NBA players takes fight

continued from page 16

The NBA owners had already has filed a pre-emptive lawsuit seeking to prove the lock-out is legal and contends that without a union that collectively bargained them, the players' guaranteed contracts could legally be voided.

The NBA's last work stoppage reduced the 1998-99 season to 50 games. So Tuesday will mark the 138th day of the current lockout.

The NBA players now find themselves headed down the same path as the NFL players who went through a 136-day lockout this year.

In its labour fight, NFL players tried to get the courts to overturn the lockout and let players get back to work. A Minnesota judge initially ruled in favour of the players,

but then that ruling was put on hold by an American appeal court.

"Given the rulings that came down in the NFL case... right now the owners are not in a bad spot," said New York antitrust lawyer David Scupp.

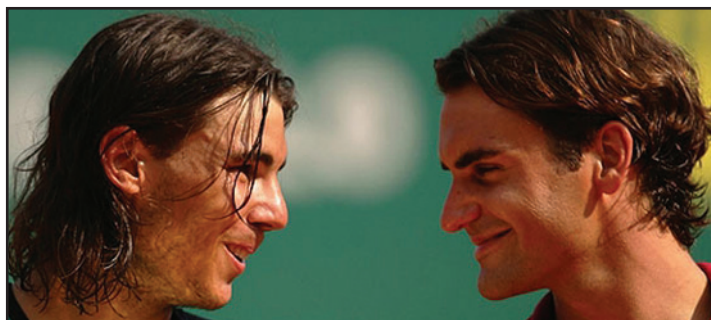
The two sides can remain negotiating during the decertification and legal wranglings so no one wants to write off the season just yet.

But in order for the NBA to have a 72-game season, Stern admitted the two sides would likely have had to come to terms on a new collective bargaining agreement within the next week. Now it appears Stern will move to cancel more games sooner than later.

The owners say they need fundamental changes to allow for a chance to make money and provide competitive balance for all teams. Their desire for a 50-50 split of basketball-related income, after players were guaranteed 57 percent under the old deal, meant owners would be receiving at least \$280 million per year more from the players.

Stern's latest proposal also capped the maximum player salary at \$20 million by 2013-14 and shrunk the maximum contract length to five years from six. Rookie contracts would also be reduced by 12 percent.

Tennis: Murray v Djokovic, Nadal v Federer in ATP Finals



file photo: Nadal - Federer

LONDON (AFP) - Britain's Andy Murray will face world number one Novak Djokovic in the group stages of the ATP World Tour Finals, following Tuesday's draw in London.

Murray, the winner of five tour titles this season, was also drawn in the same group as Spaniard David Ferrer and Czech Tomas Berdych, who knocked him out at the quarter-final stage of the Paris Masters last week.

Djokovic has won three of this season's four Grand Slam tournaments, including the Australian Open where he

beat Murray in the final.

The Serb, who went on to win Wimbledon in the summer, has been struggling with back and shoulder injuries since his victory at the US Open in September.

Djokovic was forced to withdraw from the Paris Masters last week before the quarter-finals stage, although he is hopeful of being fully fit to compete in London.

In Group B French Open champion Rafael Nadal of Spain will meet great rival Roger Federer of Switzerland, who comes into the week-long

event on the back of tournament victories in Basel and Paris.

Group B also features Paris finalist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and American Mardy Fish.

Nadal and Federer meet in a repeat of the 2011 French Open final, the Swiss superstar's only Grand Slam final appearance of the season.

The 30-year-old comes into this tournament fresh from victory in Paris however, and can surpass Ivan Lendl and Pete Sampras with a sixth finals title with victory in London.

The tournament begins Sunday and ends November 27.

Draw for the ATP Finals to be held in London:

Group A: Novak Djokovic (SRB), Andy Murray (GBR), David Ferrer (ESP), Tomas Berdych (CZE)

Group B: Rafael Nadal (ESP), Roger Federer (SUI), Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRA), Mardy Fish (USA)

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NFL: Packers beat Vikings to reach 9-0



GREEN BAY, WI: Clay Matthews #52 and Charles Woodson #21 of the Green Bay Packers stop Adrian Peterson #28 of the Minnesota Vikings at Lambeau Field on November 14, 2011 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Packers defeated the Vikings 45-7.

GREEN BAY (AFP) - The Green Bay Packers remained the National Football League's only undefeated team by easily beating the Minnesota Vikings 45-7 on Monday.

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw four touchdown passes and Randall Cobb returned a punt 80 yards for a touchdown for Green Bay who moved to 9-0 on the season.

Rodgers completed 23 of 30 passes for 250 yards without an interception. He threw a pair of touchdown passes to Jordy Nelson, and also found Greg Jennings and John Kuhn for touchdowns.

The Packers defence was also able to contain Vikings star runningback Adrian Peterson. Green Bay's defence came into

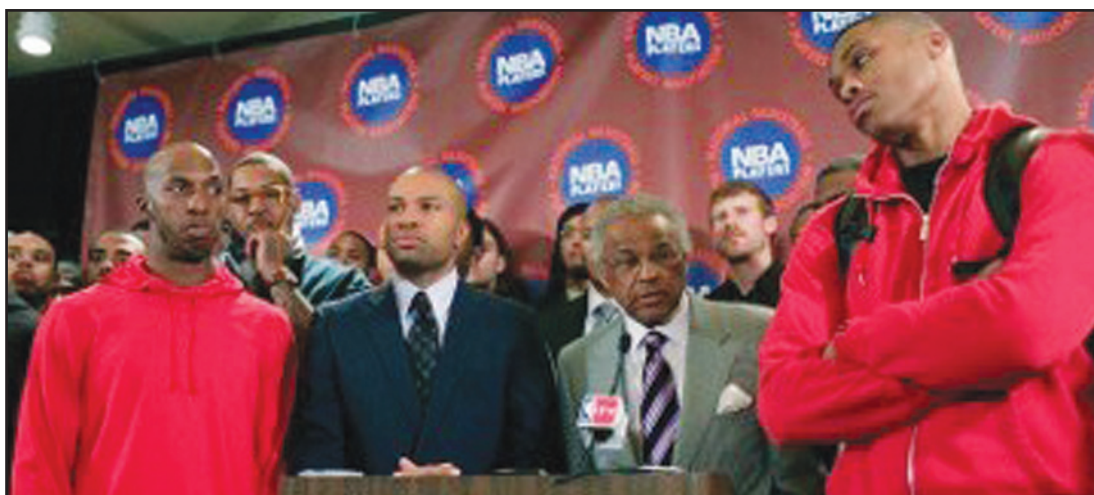
the contest giving up nearly 300 yards passing per game, second-most in the NFL.

In their last game, Green Bay almost blew a big lead in the final quarter before holding on for a 45-38 victory over San Diego.

But the Packers played up to their billing Monday against Minnesota (2-7), holding rookie quarterback Christian Ponder to just 190 yards passing with an interception. Peterson finished with 51 yards of offence and a touchdown.

Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy put backup quarterback Matt Flynn in the game with 10:30 remaining in the final quarter. Flynn also got into the endzone as he scrambled three yards for a touchdown with 4:27 left.

Basket: NBA players take high-stakes fight to court



Billy Hunter, Executive Director of the National Basketball Players Association and Derek Fisher, President of the National Basketball Players Association speak at a press conference after National Basketball Players Association met to discuss the current CBA offer at Westin Times Square on November 14, 2011 in New York City.

NEW YORK (AFP) - The NBA lockout now shifts to the American courts after the players union decided Monday it was time to "push back" and reject the latest offer from the owners.

In a high-stakes game, with the 2011-12 NBA season hanging in the balance, the players said they had no choice but to risk it all and move to disband their union and begin the process of filing an antitrust suit against the league.

"We understand the consequences of potentially missing the season; we understand the consequences that players could potentially face if things don't go our way, but it's a risk worth taking," union vice president Maurice Evans said. "It's the right move to do."

Billy Hunter, executive director of the union, said the union didn't like commissioner David Stern's ultimatum that if they didn't accept the latest proposal then they should brace for an even harsher one when, and if, talks resume.

Hunter added he thought

the latest proposal from the owners was "extremely unfair" adding they are aware what this battle might cost them. That proposal called for a 72-game season, beginning December 15.

"This deal could have been done. It should have been done," Hunter said. "We've given and given and given, and they got to the place where they just reached for too much and the players decided to push back."

Players ignored Stern's warnings, choosing instead to blow up the union. That paved the way for a potentially lengthy lawsuit which could

be filed in the next few days. It could also net them billions of dollars in damages.

The union filed their "notice of disclaimer" with the NBA head office in New York an hour before they held their news conference on Monday.

Hunter said the players would be represented in a class-action suit against the NBA by lawyers Jeffrey Kessler and David Boies -- who were on opposite sides of the National Football League labour dispute, Kessler working for the players, Boies for the league.

continues on page 15

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